

Message Text

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11
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 COME-00 MC-02 L-03 SS-15 NSC-10 ACDA-19

DODE-00 EB-11 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 AEC-11

CIAE-00 OMB-01 RSR-01 /099 W
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R 200820Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1349
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMCONSUL MELBOURNE
AMEMBASSY SAIGON
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMCONSUL SYDNEY
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (FOR MRN 4053 VICE 4052)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ESTC, AS, CB
SUBJ: GOA DENIAL OF EXPORT LICENSE FOR
AIRCRAFT TO CAMBODIA

REF: (A) CANBERRA 3757, CANBERRA 3802 STATE 136185
PHNOM PENH 7024

1. POL AND ECON COUNSELORS JOINTLY CALLED ON BLAKENEY,
BIRCH AND ALLEN OF DFA'S DEFENSE DIVISION JULY 20 TO
DISCUSS PRESENT SITUATION IN WHICH WROTEN IS PROHIBITED BY GOA
(REF B) FROM TAKING TWO AIRCRAFT OUT OF AUSTRALIA WHILE
US REGISTRY OF PLANES PRECLUDES THEIR USE WITHIN AUSTRALIA.
TALKING PAPER LEFT WITH DFA WHICH EMPHASIZED FINANCIAL
HARDSHIP THIS IMPASSE CAUSES WROTEN AND SAAT WITHOUT
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ARGUING POINT OF WHETHER AIRCRAFT MIGHT EVENTUALLY BE

USED FOR MILITARY PURPOSES IF EXPORT TO CAMBODIA ALLOWED. EMBOFFS REQUESTED DFA VIEWS ON WAYS OF RESOLVING SITUATION BEFORE PRESS CONTROVERSY DEVELOPS.

2. BLAKENEY AND BIRCH REPLIED THAT GOA HAS NEVER GOTTEN SUFFICIENT ASSURANCES ON NON-MILITARY USE OF AIRCRAFT. HOWEVER, THEY COULD NOT DEFINE WHAT SPECIFIC TYPE OF ASSURANCES MIGHT MEET GOA REQUIREMENTS. BIRCH ALSO INDICATED WROTEN IS UNRELIABLE PERSON, REFERRING TO HIS ALLEGEDLY HAVING "CIRCUMBENTED" GOA WISHES LAST APRIL IN TAKING TWO OTHER AIRCRAFT FROM AUSTRALIA TO CAMBODIA. BIRCH SAID THAT MEETING IN PHNOM PENH BETWEEN SAAT PRESIDENT FERGUSON, US AND AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADORS AND HEAD OF AIR CAMBODGE WHICH WROTEN CLAIMS TOOK PLACE LAST WEEK IN FACT NEVER OCCURRED.

3. EMBOFFS SOUGHT TO AVOID CONTENTIOUS CAMBODIA ISSUE AND ASKED ABOUT POSSIBLE WAYS PRESENT IMPASSE, WHICH PRECLUDES ANY USE THESE COSTLY AIRCRAFT, MIGHT BE RESOLVED. ALLEN CONCEDED PLANES PROBABLY COULD BE RE-REGISTERED IN AUSTRALIA AND REASOLD FOR LOCAL USE. BIRCH OBSERVED THAT IF OTHER (NOT WROTEN) OWNERS SOUGHT TO TAKE AIRCRAFT ELSEWHERE (HE MENTIONED INDIA) FOR "BONA FIDE PEACEFUL PURPOSES", THIS MIGHT BE APPROVED. BLAKENEY AND BIRCH REPEATEDLY INDICATED THEY SEE NO CHANCE OF GOA APPROVAL FOR WROTEN TO TAKE PLANES TO CAMBODIA. MEETING CLOSED WITH EMBOFFS EXPRESSING HOPE SOME WAY OF RESOLVING PRESENT IMPASSE CAN BE FOUND.

4. JUST PRIOR TO THIS MEETING, WROTEN IN MELBOURNE TELEPHONED EMBOFF TO SAY HE WILL TALK TO LOCAL PRESS ABOUT THIS PROBLEM LATER TODAY. HE CLAIMS SAAT OFFICIALS IN US WILL SEEK CONGRESSIONAL INTERVENTION AND PRESS COVERAGE WITH INTENT TO EMBARRASS PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM DURING FORTHCOMING US VISIT.

5. EMBASSY COMMENT: VIEW WROTEN STATEMENTS AND EXTREME DISPLEASURE OVER SITUATION, THERE IS CLEAR POSSIBILITY HE MAY SEEK EXTENSIVE SENSATIONAL PRESS ATTENTION AS WELL AS CONGRESSIONAL INTERVENTION. DFA IN DIS-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CUSSION SUMMARIZED FOREGOING PARAS STATED IT WAS LAREADY RECEIVING PRESS INQUIRIES. SOME EVIDENCE INTITIAL PRESS ATTENTION ORIGINATED FROM PHNOM PENH.

6. ACTION REQUESTED. IN VIEW LIKELIHOOD EMBASSY INVOLVEMENT IN FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS THIS MATTER IN AUSTRALIA , EMBASSY REQUESTS TRANSMISSION WHATEVER INFORMATION POSSIBLE CONCERNING SAAT AND WROTEN WHICH MIGHT BEAR ON THIER

BONA FIDES. SUGGEST DEPARTMENT BE PREPARED FOR PROBABLE PRESS
AND CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES THIS MATTER IN U.S.
GREEN

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